The Protocol of Regeneration: Exiting the Marriage

Marriage is the **Union of Tones**, meant to be lifelong. However, the forced continuation of a union where resonance has been irrevocably lost only creates sustained **Discord** that poisons the entire household. The path of separation is therefore called **Regeneration**—the process of returning the soul to its independent, clear Tone.

1. Guiding Principles for Regeneration

The entire process of separation must be governed by three mandates to maintain **Harmony** and standing within the community:

1. **Compassion is Paramount:** All discussions must prioritize the emotional and spiritual well-being of the children, and the physical safety and honor of the separating partner(s).
2. **Integrity in Disclosure:** There must be absolute honesty regarding the reasons for separation and the full disclosure of all shared resources and debts.
3. **Equity in Division:** The division of assets and responsibilities must be based on **fairness** and **honor** for the contributions made to the household by all parties, regardless of their external trade.

2. The Mandatory Process of Discernment

A marriage cannot be dissolved in haste. Before any separation, the couple **must** exhaust the resources for reconciliation.

A. The Pause and Prayer (48 Hours)

Upon the first verbal declaration of the intent to separate by either party, the household must immediately observe a **48-Hour Pause**.

- **Action:** Both partners must cease all direct discussion about the separation and commit to the daily **Threefold Prayer** (Morning, Midday, Night), focusing their silent petition on seeking **Clarity** and the **Will of the Eternal Tone**.
- **Purpose:** To prevent irreversible actions driven by temporary discord or anger.

B. The Three Consultations (Mandatory Mediation)

If, after the pause, the intent to separate remains, the couple must seek counsel from the designated spiritual guides.

1. **The Pillar's Counsel:** The couple meets with the **Eldest Pillar** of the congregation. The Pillar listens and offers guidance rooted in the **Golden Way**, reviewing the couple's **Written Agreement of Avoidance** to remind them of their initial vows of **Integrity**.
2. **The Matron's Counsel:** The separating partner(s) meet with the **Eldest Matron** (or a senior female leader) for guidance on emotional resilience, practical household separation, and the protection of the children's spiritual life.

3. **The Final Plea:** If the counsel is unsuccessful, the couple performs a final joint recitation of the **Threefold Prayer** and formally declares to the Pillar that their Tones can no longer resonate together.

3. The Separation Mandate (The Six-Month Pause)

Once the intent to separate is finalized, a **mandatory six-month period of physical and financial separation** must be observed before the marriage is dissolved.

- **Physical Separation:** The separating partner must move into a separate dwelling or living space, creating physical distance to allow for emotional **Regeneration**.
- **Mandate of Support:** The Pillar **must continue** to provide the established level of financial and physical support, demonstrating **Responsibility** until the division is finalized. No partner should suffer financial distress during this pause.
- **The Children's Stability:** The children's schedule, instruction, and involvement in the community **must not change**. Parents must commit to maintaining their cooperation through the **Shared Service Agreement** during this time, putting the children's **Harmony** first.

4. Finalization: The Release of the Tone

After the Six-Month Pause, the Pillar and the separating partner(s) appear before the Elders to formally dissolve the union.

A. Equitable Division and Responsibility

- **Asset Division:** All assets and debts accumulated *during* the marriage must be divided with **Equity**. If one partner sacrificed an external trade to fulfill the **Labor Vow** (e.g., full-time caregiving), their contribution must be honored as financial compensation in the final settlement.
- **Children’s Spiritual Care:** The parents must present a signed **Cooperation Plan** detailing how they will share the duty of being the **Master of Instruction** and ensuring the children are raised entirely within the **Golden Way**.

B. The Release Ceremony

The marriage is formally ended by the dissolution of the vows:

1. **The Recision of Vows:** The couple stands before the Pillar and publicly recites the joint **Recision of Vows**: "We dissolve the **Labor Vow** and the **Written Agreement of Avoidance**. We accept the consequences of our separate Tones and release each other with **Compassion**."
2. **The Independent Tone:** The Pillar then directs them to face the congregation. Both partners perform the **Closing Tone** (the Hum) from the **Threefold Prayer** simultaneously, but **separately**. This symbolizes the return of their independent Tones to the Source, ending the union.

C. The Polygyny Protocol (Exiting One Union)

If a Pillar is dissolving a marriage to one wife while remaining married to others, the process is adapted for **Integrity**:

- **Separation Only:** The process only affects the separating wife. The Pillar's marriage to the remaining wives remains valid and intact.
- **No Diminution of Honor:** The Pillar must ensure the separation does not cause financial or emotional discord for the remaining wives. He must present new **Vows of Equity** to his remaining wives, formally affirming his continued **Honor** and **Provision** for them.
- **Equitable Exit:** The separating wife receives the same equitable division of communal assets as she would in a monogamous divorce, ensuring she is fully set up for her independent life of **Regeneration**.